

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 8-16 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-referenced application.

1. (Original) A method of preventing the repudiation of digitally-signed electronic documents, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of electronic documents during a first and second time interval;

forming a message digest for each of the plurality of electronic documents;

forming a first super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the message digests received during the first time interval;

forming a second super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the message digests received during the second time interval and from the first super-message digest;

transmitting the second super-message digest to a timestamp authority and receiving a timestamp therefrom; and

recording each of the message digests, first and second super-message digests, and timestamp in an audit log.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of electronic documents corresponds to a file attachment in an electronic mail message.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second time intervals are pre-determined.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the duration of the first and second time intervals are dynamically determined from a number of electronic documents anticipated during a particular time of day.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of recording a timestamp associated with the first super-message digest in the audit log.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the first super-message digest is further derived from the timestamp associated with the first super-message digest and from a prior super-message digest.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the second super-message digest is further derived from the timestamp associated with the first super-message digest.

Claims 8-16 (Canceled).

17. (New) A computer-readable medium comprising code that prevents the repudiation of digitally-signed electronic documents, the code performing the steps of:

receiving a plurality of electronic documents during a first and second time interval;

forming a message digest for each of the plurality of electronic documents;

forming a first super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the message digests received during the first time interval;

forming a second super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the message digests received during the second time interval and from the first super-message digest;

transmitting the second super-message digest to a timestamp authority and receiving a timestamp therefrom; and

recording each of the message digests, first and second super-message digests, and timestamp in an audit log.

18 . (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 wherein at least one of the plurality of electronic documents corresponds to a file attachment in an electronic mail message.

19. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 wherein the first and second time intervals are pre-determined.

20. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 wherein the duration of the first and second time intervals are dynamically determined from a number of electronic documents anticipated during a particular time of day.

21. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 further comprising code that records a timestamp associated with the first super-message digest in the audit log.

22. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 21 wherein the first super-message digest is further derived from the timestamp associated with the first super-message digest and from a prior super-message digest.

23. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 21 wherein the second super-message digest is further derived from the timestamp associated with the first super-message digest.